

V. REMARKS

The Office Action objects to the Abstract of the Disclosure because the Examiner alleges that lines 11-15 are improper because these lines refer to the purported merits of the invention. A substitute Abstract of the Disclosure in clean form on a separate sheet of paper is filed herewith to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 (mistakenly indicated as claims 1-6) are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Campillo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,255,853) in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Campillo teaches method for electrically connecting, by means of electrically conducting connections, two assemblies. Each assembly has n connecting terminals. The connecting terminals of at least one of the assemblies are designed in the form of conducting zones located at the level of the external surface of the assembly support. The method includes the sequential steps of:

providing at least one flexible insulating support having two connecting end-portions and a central portion, at least one slot being formed in at least one of the connecting end-portions, the slot being arranged to be superposed on the terminals of the corresponding assembly over the conducting zones, the flexible support being provided with at least one extension located beyond the slot with respect to the central portion;

bonding at least the slotted end-portion of the flexible support to the respective assembly;

providing n electrical connecting leads and bonding the leads to the flexible support including the extension, at least one end of each connecting lead being placed above the slot opposite to the terminal conducting zone to which the lead is intended to be electrically connected; and

establishing an electrical contact between each end of the connecting leads and their respective terminal conducting zone.

The AAPA teaches that anisotropic electro-conductive elastomer sheets are formed by first forming an anisotropic electro-conductive block by integrating arrayed metal fine wires with an insulator such as rubber or the like, and then finely cutting in the direction orthogonal to the direction in which the fine metal wires extend.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a cable that includes a cable body, m rows of rectangular elastomer regions and k patterns (wherein k is a number equal to or less than m) of transmission paths. Claim 1 recites that the cable body includes a plurality of elastomer sheets having non-electroconductivity with each of the elastomer sheets having a pair of wide ends and a narrow intermediate portion integrally connected to and provided between the ends. Claim 1 also recites that the m rows of rectangular elastomer regions have electroconductivity being arrayed on each of the pair of the wide ends with each one of the rectangular elastomer regions forming a rectangular bar member embedded into a respective leading end portion of the pair of wide ends. Further, claim 1 recites that the k patterns, where k is a number equal to or less than m) of transmission paths connect the rectangular elastomer regions by extending between connected ones of the transmission paths of respective ones of the rectangular elastomer regions through the narrow intermediate portion. Additionally, claim 1 recites that n layers, where n is a number equal to or less than m , of the plurality of elastomer sheets are layered such that the rectangular elastomer regions of the upper and lower layers are mutually in contact, and are connected with the external connecting terminals by pressuring the external connecting terminals against both ends of the elastomer sheets which have been layered.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in

combination, teaches or suggests that each one of the rectangular elastomer regions form a rectangular bar member that is embedded into a respective leading end portion of the pair of wide ends. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 3, as amended, is directed to a manufacturing method for a cable that includes:

- an electroconductive portion formation step for providing electroconductive elastomer on a non-electroconductive elastomer member formed in the shape of the cable so as to obtain an elastomer member;

- a cutting step for cutting the elastomer member into sheets to obtain elastomer sheets;

- a transmission path formation step for forming transmission paths on the surface of the elastomer sheets; and

- a sheet layering step for layering and adhering the plurality of elastomer sheets to form a cable body having opposing leading end portions of the non-electroconductive elastomer member with bar-shaped portions of the electroconductive elastomer being embedded into respective ones of the opposing leading end portions.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 3 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests that the plurality of elastomer sheets form a cable body having opposing leading end portions of the non-electroconductive elastomer member with bar-shaped portions of the electroconductive elastomer

being embedded into respective ones of the opposing leading end portions. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 3 is allowable over the applied art.

Furthermore, the terminals (Ai & Si) of Campillo are not arrayed on the circuits (A & B) which is outside of the sheets. Fig. 3 of Campillo shows that the cables are laminated such that one of the cables is not lying on top of the other.

However, in this invention, the bar-shaped portion of electro-conductive elastomer is provided on the respective leading end portion of the sheet, and the sheets are layered such that the electroconductive elastomers of the upper and lower layers are mutually in contact. The cable has electroconductivity in the Z direction in which the elastomer sheets are layered; on the other hand the cable has no electroconductivity in the X and Y directions which are the planer directions of the sheets. Therefore, a reduced area of the cable transmission paths is realized.

Fig. 6 illustrates that the elastomer sheet 1S which has no transmission path is provided on the top most layer. This prevents the transmission path of the elastomer sheet 2S from being exposed, and ensures insulation (specification, page 23, paragraph [0055]).

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

For at least the reasons discussed above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claims 4-7 also include features not shown in the applied art.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

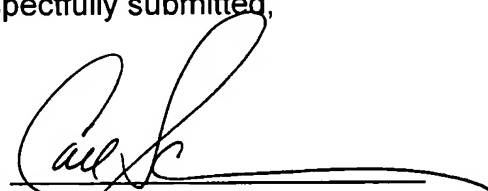
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Abstract of the Disclosure

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